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437

Air Defense Command Assumes Responsibility for Thor Missile
Launch Support of Space Programs.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT NO. 340

On 1 April 1967, in informal ceremonies at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the responsibilities for launch support of certain space programs were transferred to Air Defense Command from the Strategic Air Command. The transfer has resulted in significant savings to the U.S. Air Force in terms of manpower spaces, facilities and equipment.

Air Defense Command launch crews will use the Titan missile with a Scout II upper stage at Vandenberg Air Force Base to place specialized payloads into earth orbit. The Air Defense Command crews were already skilled in launching Program 437 Titan missiles and were available to take on this added mission.

The Air Defense Command unit has been augmented with a portion of the manpower spaces, personnel and facilities from the Strategic Air Command unit. The assets not transferred were thus released for use in other programs, resulting in a savings of 133 manpower spaces and facilities valued at approximately \$2.25 million.

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